

THE MESSENGER

Smith Grove Baptist Church
P.O. Box 57
Colfax, NC 27235

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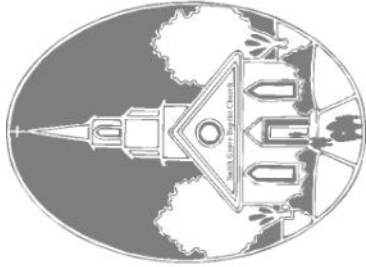
PROVERBS 25:13

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him, for he refresheth the soul of his masters . . .

Sunday School	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Children's Church	11:15 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Wednesday Service	7:00 PM
Bible Clubs	7:00 PM
Thursday Visitation	7:00 PM

~ NURSERY PROVIDED ~
2707 Sandy Ridge Road
Colfax, NC 27235

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peters, Pastor
Home: (336) 996-8563
Cell: (336) 812-1169



www.smithgrove.org

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The Messenger



January
2024



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Sunday School	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Children's Church	11:15 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Wednesday Service	7:00 PM
Bible Clubs	6:45-8:15 PM

Streaming Live: Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/mySGBC/>
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https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39_zpMzkkCXdFYy1NKndQ

PROVERBS 25:13 *As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him, for he refresheth the soul of his masters . . .*

2024

Happy New Year!

Sat., Jan. 6 , 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission

Sun., Jan. 21 – BEAMS Sunday

Every Monday, 3 pm, Robinwood Retirement Ctr.

Statement of Faith:

We are an Independent Baptist Church (*established in 1921*) preaching the old time Gospel and still believing that the King James Version of the Bible constitutes the preserved, inerrant, and inspired Word of God for the English speaking people of the earth.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

SHUT-INS: Betty Byrd Iris Farrington

IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

PVT Adam Brittain, Army, Stateside (Sam Crater's nephew)

CW4 Jonathan Harless (Ft. Bragg) } (Hal & Martha

COL Robert Harless (Ft. Bragg, NC) } Harless' sons)

E5 Noah Johnson, US Coast Guard, Portsmouth, VA

(Henry & Geraldine Johnson's grandson)

CCWO5 Michael Maine, US Army; Fort Rucker, AL

(Nephew of Clarence Redmon)

SSgt Trevor Westmoreland, Army, Fort Benning, GA

(Allen & Sandy Westmoreland's son)

MSgt Gregory Reynolds, Marines, Camp Pendleton, CA.

(Jan Reynolds' son.)

The Country of Israel - families of those killed, and the hostages taken. *May God's chosen people prevail.*



A Letter a Day with a Verse to Stay

This is a devotional series from Pastor Chuck which takes us through the alphabet each month.



X – “eXpectation” “My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.” – Psalm 62:5

Today's letter is contained in a great word for this word is a word of hope and confidence, due to the object of expectation. Quite frankly, our only real stable and satisfying expectation is from Him! The Psalmist lays out the evidence for God being his expectation. He speaks from a personal and testimonial experience with the use of the possessive personal pronoun “my”. If we would read verse 5 along with verses 6-7, we can see his support for having his expectation in God. His expectation is in God for God is his salvation, his rock, his glory, his defense, and his refuge. Allow me to quickly say that nothing and no one in this world offer these wonderful grounds for expectation. We look to Him, alone!

The God of the Psalmist is equally the God of every Christian and the expectation of the Psalmist is equally the expectation of every Christian for all the same reasons! It is a great blessing to be able to trust God with faith to believe that even though we may not always get what we expect, we will always get from Him what we really need. We can expect from Him that which enhances our spiritual growth and redounds to His glory even though we may suffer in the process. We, however, must never forget that our experiences, though sometimes painful, never will cast asperity on God's care and love for His own. “When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow; For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.” - George Keith



BEAMS' Report for December 2023

of Pledges: 10; # of Contributions: 6;
Total Contributors: 16
Total Contributed: \$ 953.00 =
119 Bibles in December (plus some postage)

Many thanks to all those who gave monies to the BEAMS' ministry specifically for postage which added \$ 205.00 in December!

You can also get the BEAMS' report online at our website:

<https://www.smithgrove.org/beams-report/>

Services will be streaming Live every Wednesday at 7 p.m. & Sunday at 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. on [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#) — (You do not need a



facebook account to watch the video on fb!)



<https://www.facebook.com/mySGBC/>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39_zpMzkkCXdFYy1NKndQ

To listen & download mp3:

Audio Archive Online ~ <https://www.smithgrove.org/audio-archive/>

Psalm 37:4 & 5 *Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. 5 Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

Col. 3:17 *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

1 Peter 1:23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*



The Road to Everlasting Life

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

Romans 5:12 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

Romans 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 10:9-10 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Romans 10:13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”



Smith Grove's ministry to our widows, widowers, & senior singles

*"Honour widows that are widows indeed."
(1 Timothy 5:3)*

This is a continuing churchwide ministry to remember **widows, widowers, and senior singles** of the church in a meaningful way. Each month, we highlight our special "Honour Roll Gang Members" who are having birthdays. Listed below are *January and February* Honour Roll Gang members. Please take a moment to send a card, make a telephone call, or do something extra special for our special saints.

Cassandra Mann

800 Quail Meadow
Colfax, NC 27235
336-993-4327 (Home)
336-317-3483 (Cell) ~ January 2

Kathy Flynt

896 Flynt Rd.
High Point, NC 27265
336-668-2500 (Home)
336-880-3352 (Cell) ~ January 7

Doris Cochran

122 Welch Dr
High Point, NC 27265
336-869-5059 ~ January 17

Mary Ellen Haynes

708 Lakedale Rd.
Colfax, NC 27235
336-993-2081 ~ January 27

Betty Bame

8610 Adkins Rd
Colfax, NC 27235
336-993-2488 ~ January 30

Jean Rumsey

8730 Bame Road
Colfax, NC 27235
336-668-2080 ~ February 01

Joy Overcast

441 Mountain View Dr, Apt. 110
Kernersville, NC 27284
336-996-7563 ~ February 12



Language of the three Ps. . . (Pastor Chuck)

"I can't" ~ Pessimism

"I can" ~ Presumption

"I can with Christ" ~ Power

Philippians 4:13

*I can do all things through
Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Are you or a family member turning 90 this year? Please let Pastor Chuck know if you would like to be recognized on your special birthday!

January Anniversaries

There are no January anniversaries...



"A Baby Step Away from Death"



David once sensed the fragile nature of his physical life, during the times of his hiding from Saul. He spoke of his life's brief distance from death. He calculated the distance as only a step's length. "...there is but a step between me and death." – I Samuel 20:3 The step is really, only a baby's step! It is fragile and could be easily snuffed out because of the multiplicity of looming threats which continually confront us all daily. Look at the news and note the death reports both locally and abroad. Is there a better current illustration than the war now, in Israel, and the mass casualties?

I would highly suggest that all of us make sure we are prepared for that final step! The best and safest approach to counter the "step of death" is with a "step of faith"! "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" – Romans 5:1 Just as surely as the distance to death is only a step, the distance to life is only a step. The moment a sinner believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, they are saved! "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." – Acts 16:31 This is only a step away from life!

Chuck Peters – 10/13/2023

Charles Spurgeon's Top 2 New Year Resolutions

1. God's Sovereignty

"I see a highway cast up by the foreknowledge and predestination of God. Nothing of the future is left to chance; nay, not the falling of a sparrow, nor the losing of a hair is left to haphazard; but all the events of life are arranged and appointed. Not only is every turn in the road marked in the divine map, but every stone on the road, and every drop of morning dew or evening mist that falls upon the grass which grows at the roadside. We are not to cross a trackless desert; the Lord has ordained our path in his infallible wisdom and infinite love."

2. God's Guidance

"I see, next, a Guide provided, as our companion along the way. To him we gladly say, 'Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel.' He is waiting to go with us through every portion of the road. 'The Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee.' We are not left to pass through life as though it were a lone wilderness, a place of dragons and owls; for Jesus says, 'I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.'"

A New Year's Plan

I tried to think of a clever new phrase—
A slogan to inspire the next 365 days,
A motto to live by this coming New Year,
But the catchy words fell flat to my ear.

And then I heard His still small voice
Saying, "Consider this simple, daily choice:
With each new dawn and close of day
Make new your resolve to trust and obey."

"Don't look back, caught in regret
Or dwell on the sorrow of dreams unmet;
Don't stare forward anchored by fear,
No, live in this moment, for I Am here."

"I am all you need. Everything. I Am.
You are held secure by my strong hand.
Give me this one thing – your all in all;
Into my grace, let yourself fall."

So, at last, I'm ready; I see the way.
It's to daily follow, trust, and obey.
I enter the New Year armed with a plan,
To give Him my everything – all that I am.
--Mary Fairchild

His Unfailing Presence

Another year I enter
Its history unknown;
Oh, how my feet would tremble
To tread its paths alone!
But I have heard a whisper,
I know I shall be blest;
"My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest."
What will the New Year bring me?
I may not, must not know;
Will it be love and rapture,
Or loneliness and woe?
Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper;
I surely shall be blest;
"My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest."

*As we enter
this New
Year, 2024,
we stop to*

*thank the Lord for 40
years in publication of
our beloved newsletter,
The Messenger!*

*We thank everyone on
our Newsletter Commit-
tee for their faithfulness
each month in getting our
Messenger ready for pub-
lication: Becky, Glenda,
Sam, and Clarence.*

*God has blessed us with
the means to have this
monthly outreach as yet
another avenue to share
the gospel story.*

*Please pray that we will
continue to keep Christ
first in every endeavor!*

*Thank you for your
prayers and encourage-
ment.*

.....Sherrill, Editor



The White Family ~ Missionaries to Bolivia

Giving to the Lord: One of the signs that I believe shows spiritual maturity more than anything else is a desire to give and be generous. It is the opposite of focusing on sinful self, and in reality brings more joy than all the material things in the world could give. The more our focus is on the things of the Lord, and heaven, the easier it is, and the more we lay up treasure that will last forever. This very thing is what we have been able to see through the generosity of many of you, that have given towards helping our church here purchase land. This past month we had a \$3500 gift that was given by a person from a supporting church that had passed away and left the money to our ministry. We have been truly blessed and the total that we have received is now \$78,820, and that only leaves us with right at \$21,000 left. If you would like to help us reach our goal, you can send your offering to Vision Baptist Missions Inc., C/O Bolivia Land Fund, P.O. Box 647, Dawsonville Ga 30534.

Spiritual Health: One of the things, that is lacking most in our world, is the love of God, or that people understand the love of God. While there are many ways that we can show the love of God to others, I feel like one of the best is when we show genuine concern for both their physical and spiritual health. This past month, one of the men from our church was able to organize a small medical clinic in an area behind our church where there is a children's home, and where over one hundred needy families live. There is an organization here called Bright Hope that was able to take several doctors, and a physical therapist, and there was an eye doctor from one of our churches that also participated. Each person was taken into a waiting room where we shared the gospel with them, and then they were able to see one of the doctors. We were also able to share the gospel with a group of about thirty kids from the home. At the end we spoke with several families that were interested in coming to church got contact information. We praise the Lord for this opportunity and hope to see much fruit in the weeks to come.

The Enemy Never Sleeps: We mentioned in past prayer requests to pray for Pastor Juan Lamett and his family that are starting the church in Santa Cruz. Juan has faced several health issues lately and is still struggling to get back to 100%. He came to Cochabamba for the ordination service that we had, but was unable to return to Santa Cruz because of stomach issues. He was recovering from a double hernia surgery, but after being tested found out he had H-Pylori, which is a bacteria that can cause stomach ulcers, and even cancer. While he was here being treated he started having throat spasms that left him almost unable to breath at times. After his treatment this got a little better but he still has a hard time speaking or singing for long and on occasion still has the spasms. Please pray for his recovery so that he can continue to work in the church as he desires.

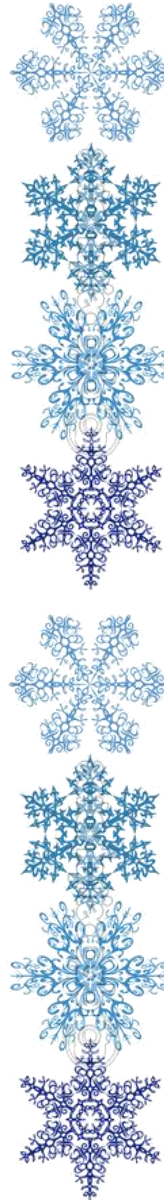
Prayer Requests: 1. Pray for Pastor Juan Lamett and his family and for his recovery. 2. Pray as we continue to try and get the papers for the church in Quillacollo approved by the government. 3. Pray for Pastor Jorge and the church in Pacata as they seek to buy land soon. 4. Pray for those that heard the gospel during the medical clinic.

Smith Grove Youth & Teens Wishes everyone a Happy New Year!



This Christmas season, our young people have overcome many obstacles to bring the hope of Jesus to others. We confess, there were moments when we thought we might change our presentation title to “*The Christmas Play That Almost Wasn’t*”! Through sickness, exams, and the soggiest performance night, our youngsters persevered, and our hearts were touched by their willingness and devotion to bring their Christmas message, despite the hardships. Based on a play by Julie Snyder, “**Christmas Hope**” tells the story of a widow and her three children spending their first Christmas without their father. **Catherine** beautifully portrayed the role of Mom, who desperately wants her teens to understand that Christmas is more than expensive gifts and festive parties. She asks for the Lord’s wisdom in a season when it’s hard to face the reality that someone dear is missing from their lives. As the kids decorate the tree, she unpacks the manger scene, telling the beloved story of the first Christmas. **Marshall Moore**, **Mackenzie**, and **Lillie** reluctantly gather around the table to listen to Mom while the scenes unfold onstage. **Audrey** was lovely Mary, willing to do the Lord’s will, but praying that God would help Joseph understand. **Watson** was the patient Joseph, troubled about his next steps and asking for direction as he lays down to sleep. Sweet **Angie** was the angel, visiting Joseph in a dream, and assuring him that he had an important role to play in God’s plan to bring our Savior to this weary world. **Parran** and **Marshall Freeman** portrayed Isaiah and his assistant, stepping out to write on scrolls and proclaiming the arrival of the Messiah 700 years before it came to pass. They remind us of His painful purpose, prophesying that He would be *wounded for our transgressions*, and that *by His stripes we are healed*. The kids marveled that God’s promise to save us came from the very beginning... even at His birth on that first starry night, the Child was meant to die for us. Mom knows they understand when Lillie adds the one thing missing from their nativity scene... a wooden cross. He was our *Hope*, lying in a manger. While shepherds gather around, Mom reminds her family that Jesus is truly the most precious Gift, sent to give His life so that we might live forever. And because their dad accepted this Savior as his own, they can rejoice knowing they will have eternity to spend together in heaven.

Some years, Christmas just doesn’t go as planned... there’s a sudden loss, an unexpected sickness, an unforeseen sorrow. Or maybe a beloved someone is missing from our celebration. Even though we grieve, the Baby in the manger brings redemption to fallen mankind.



He pours salvation into our broken hearts, and He shines the hope of heaven in this sad and lonely world. Our youngsters were eager to bring this message of *Christmas Hope*, and their hearts really were IN this play, making it a very special one to put together. It has been such a joint effort that we were all disappointed for the sweet youngsters who worked so hard, but suddenly couldn’t join us because of sickness. **Addison** was our original older sister, **Anthony** was our third shepherd, and **Abi** was to be an angel overlooking our nativity. We’re grateful for the flexibility of our cast while switching roles at the last minute, as Audrey took Mackenzie’s part because Mackenzie took Addison’s part! We deeply appreciate the help of **John**, **Trudy**, and **Tony**, who spent hours at our practices, recording the youth group singing onto our soundtrack, directing our microphone use, running the sound booth, and livestreaming the final performance. Many thanks also, to **Ashley** and **Nathan** for recording our songs in advance so our young people could listen and practice at home. Much appreciation goes to **Toots**, for making cd copies for us. And thank you **Glenda**, for taking on the spotlight duties for long practices, and for such special care in lighting the stage just perfectly for our performance. We’re grateful too, for the support of our entire loving audience, who braved the awful wind and rain to come watch in person, as well as those who hunkered down at home to eagerly watch from afar. No matter what changes your celebration holds this year, we pray your hearts are comforted with *Christmas Hope*...

With Hopeful Prayers for Blessings on All of You in 2024,
Bruce, Darla, and Marshall & John and Stephanie



The Dawning of a New Year ~ Pastor Chuck

The dawning of this new year, 2024, is far more than just another year to endure. The new year brings with it several things including fears, challenges, aspirations, and promises. The new year constitutes a year which will mean life changes as we all will make transitions of one form or the other. Stages of life warrant certain transitions.

I believe that attitude is all important as we begin 2024. We just passed through Christmas and the tradition of gift giving. I would suggest that we view the dawning of this new year as a belated Christmas gift from God. That perspective would cause us to approach the new year with gratitude. God makes all things new, including years. He authors time and life. Life is a gift and the years of our life are gifted as well. The value of a year is not determined so much by the quantity of Months which make the year but rather the quality of life lived for the glory of God, daily and throughout the year.

The dawning of a new year means a new year with new daily blessings from God. "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah." – Psalm 68:19 God's mercy and compassion are also experienced daily by the Christian. "They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." – Lamentations 3:23

A new year reminds us of new and wonderful things associated with the Lord's doings. He makes one a new creation when they are saved. He gives a new heart and a new hope. There is coming a new Heaven and a new earth. "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." – Revelation 21:5

This new year, 2024, will constitute the year in which I experience the crossing through of uncharted ministry waters in my life. The crossing involves both peace and unsettledness. It's hard to imagine ministry without service as Pastor! Nearly 50 years of my life have been spent pastoring churches and this church constitutes a pastorate of more than 25 years. I step down from my role as Senior Pastor, but know that I can never resign from preaching the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. My calling to preach will remain until I close my eyes in death and pass through the portals of Glory!

I fall back on the major thesis of this article which means approaching the dawning of the new year with gratitude. I believe that this "dawning" is a "belated Christmas gift." I approach the new year with both gratitude and excitement for the walk in the light of God's will and Word can only get brighter. "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." – Proverbs 4:18

Praise the Lord for the dawning of the year, 2024. This New Year may be the year that goes down in the eternal register of God's calendar when He gives the nod to His "Beloved Son" to bring His Bride home!**Pastor Chuck Peters**

"FOLLOWING ON TO KNOW THE LORD"

~ Pastor Chuck, written 2003
(Hosea 6:1-4)

Israel in Hosea's day knew the talk but they were not walking the walk. God said that Judah's was as the morning cloud and as the early dew it goeth away. (6:4) The people were more interested in happiness than holiness. They also desired healing more than cleansing. They had a tendency to shed tears more over their physical suffering than over their sins. They did, however, make a profound statement in verse three. "Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord..."

The goal of the Christian should be to follow on to know the Lord! It is so sad that many in our churches have no spiritual goals. They simply go through the motions and operate only on the basis of tradition and habit. They know nothing of Paul's stated ambition where he says, "That I might know him, and the power of his resurrection..." (Phil.3:10) The saved person knows Him as Savior. Our priority goal should be to know Him in a greater way. We need to follow on to know the Lord.

Ground is lost when we fail to live by faith. There is the temptation to depend upon the flesh. The Bible tells us that it is a foolish move to depend on the flesh. "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" (Gal.3:3) Faith is required to follow on to know the Lord. Our faith must rest on the credibility of the Word of God, not on our feelings. Someone wrote, *"Three men were walking on the wall, feeling, faith, and fact. Feeling took an awful fall and faith was taken back. Faith walked so close to feeling, it stumbled and fell too. Fact remained and pulled faith back and faith brought feeling too."* **Chuck Peters**

"If this New Year shall be full of unbelief, it will be sure to be dark and dreary. If it be baptized into faith, it will be saturated with benediction. If we will believe our God as he deserves to be believed, our way will run along the still waters, and our rest will be in green pastures. Trusting in the Lord, we shall be prepared for trials, and shall even welcome them as black ships laden with bright treasures."*Quote by C. H. Spurgeon*

